

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OPR-02 CPR-01 PER-01 AID-05 VO-05 EB-08 CA-01
OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 PC-01 /111 W
-----122796 011004Z /10

P 010820Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7700
SECDEF
DIRNSA, FT MEADE, MD.
CINCPAC
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 3396

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI AND TEHRAN ALSO FOR DAOS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PINT, AF
SUBJECT: FIRST CONTACT WITH NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) KABUL 3370 (B) KABUL 3372

1. SUMMARY: AT NOON LOCAL TIME SUNDAY, APRIL 30, ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION CALLED INTO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO MEET WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL MIR SHAMSOUDINE AND DEPUTY CHIEF ABDULLAH YAHYA TARZI TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN WHICH TWO USAID OFFICIALS HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY DETAINED. DURING COURSE OF FRIENDLY ONE-HOUR CONVERSATION WHICH WAS FIRST OFFICIAL CONTACT
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WITH THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING EVENTS OF THE LAST 72 HOURS, CHIEF OF PROTOCOL PROVIDED INFORMATION ON EXIT VISAS, STATUS OF ROAD TRAVEL, AIRPORT AND BORDER CLOSURE, BESIDES GIVING DISSERTATION ON SECURITY AND SAFETY MEASURES TO BE OBSERVED BY FOREIGNERS. DURING DISCUSSION TARZI MENTIONED THAT ALL AFGHAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO NOTIFY FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS ABROAD OF THE NEW REGIME. AT END OF MEETING,

PROTOCOL CHIEF STATED THAT OFFICIAL CONTACTS WILL TAKE PLACE VERY SOON AND AT ALL LEVELS ACCORDING TO RANK OF EMBASSY AND AFGHAN GOVERNMENTAL STAFFS. POLICY OF NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE EXPLAINED AT THAT TIME TO ALL AMBASSADORS AND CHARGE'S RESIDENT IN KABUL. END SUMMARY.

2. ACTING DCM WOODWARD RECEIVED CALL FROM DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, MFA, ABDULLAH YAYHA TARZI, AT NOON, SUNDAY, APRIL 30, TO IMMEDIATELY COME TO FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ORDER TO DISCUSS SITUATION CONCERNING TWO USAID/AFGHANISTAN OFFICIALS WHO HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY DETAINED EARLIER THAT MORNING (KABUL 3370).

3. ARMY TANK STILL PARKED OUTSIDE FRONT GATE OF MFA, SOLDIER WITH AK-47, AND UNARMED POLICEMAN STANDING GUARD INSIDE GATE. ACTING DCM MET ON STEPS OF MFA BY JUNIOR LIEUTENANT WITH AK-47 WHO PROVIDED ESCORT INTO MFA. ANOTHER SOLDIER WITH AK-47 INSIDE LOBBY. WOODWARD GREETED BY TARZI AT DOORWAY TO SHAMSOUDINE'S OFFICE ON MAIN FLOOR OF MFA. BOTH FRIENDLY AND COURTEOUS THROUGHOUT HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION.

4. DISCUSSION BEGAN WITH SHAMSOUDINE STATING THAT U.S. MISSION TWO-WAY RADIOS REGISTERED UNDER PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT NOW BE USED, THAT SINGLE-SIDE BAND RADIOS BEING USED BY USAID WERE INTERFERING WITH MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS. A/DCM INFORMED PROTOCOL CHIEF THAT USAID IN KABUL HAD BEEN TOLD ALREADY BY EMBASSY NOT TO USE AID RADIO NET IN KABUL, BUT ASKED SHAMSOUDINE

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TO CHECK TO SEE IF POSSIBLE TO ALLOW USAID KABUL TO HAVE ONCE-A-DAY COMMUNICATIONS BY RADIO WITH AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN LASH-KARGAH. TOWARD END OF MEETING HE LEFT ROOM AND RETURNED WITH ANSWERS TO MANY QUESTIONS, INCLUDING REQUEST TO POSTPONE ANY USE OF THE USAID RADIO SO AS NOT TO CREATE TROUBLE OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY COMMENT THAT AFGHAN GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING AFTER AMERICANS. EMBASSY WILL BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY IF ANYTHING UNTOWARD EVER HAPPENS.

5. A/DCM EXPLAINED THAT EMBASSY ALSO HAS RADIO NET, BUT ON DIFFERENT SYSTEM THAN AID AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH ANY AFGHAN SYSTEM AS IT IS SHORT-RANGE AND FREQUENCIES NOT USED BY ANYONE IN KABUL. AS TELEPHONE SYSTEM NOT FULLY RESTORED, WE NEED TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR AND CHECK ON WELFARE OF AMERICANS IN KABUL. THIS MET WITH NO RESPONSE. COMMENT: EMBASSY RADIO NET CONTINUES IN OPERATION BUT ONLY BEING USED FOR EMERGENCIES. MOST TELEPHONES BACK IN OPERATION WITHIN KABUL CITY EXCEPT IN DAMAGED AREAS AND AT AMERICAN SCHOOL. END COMMENT.

6. FORMAL PART OF DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO SECURITY AND SAFETY OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY. SHAMSOUDINE SAID THAT AFGHANISTAN IS UNDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND THAT THE MILITARY REGIME IS RESPONSIBLE

FOR PROTECTION OF ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING EXPERTS ASSIGNED IN THE PROVINCES. A/DCM RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD ALL OF OUR PEOPLE TO REMAIN IN-DOORS AFTER DARK. SHAMSODINE THEN LAID OUT GROUND RULES FOR USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND THAT EVERYONE SHOULD REMAIN WITHIN CITY OF KABUL, OR, IF RESIDING IN PROVINCES, MUST STAY PUT FOR TIME BEING.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 3396

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7. A/DCM THEN REQUESTED OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS CONCERNING WHEN BORDER WILL BE OPENED, WHEN COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS WILL RESUME, AND PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING EXIT VISAS FOR AMERICANS DESIRING TO DEPART AFGHANISTAN. SHAMSODINE TOOK DOWN ALL QUESTIONS, DEPARTED ROOM AND RETURNED IN TEN MINUTES TO SAY THAT AIRPORT CONTINUES TO BE CLOSED AS ARE ALL LAND BORDERS. AS SOON AS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE, EMBASSY WILL BE NOTIFIED ON PROCEDURES WHICH WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT FOR ALLOWING FOREIGNERS TO DEPART. SHAMSODINE FULLY AWARE OF STUDENTS FROM AMERICAN SCHOOLS IN PAKISTAN AND INDIA VISITING KABUL FOR CULTURAL CONVENTION AT

ASK. HE ASSURED A/DCM THAT AS SOON AS BORDER IS OPEN HE WILL
INFORM EMBASSY WHEN CONVOY MAY PROCEED TO PAKISTAN BORDER.
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8. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, "WHEN DO YOU THINK THIS GOVERNMENT
WILL MAKE OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY," SHAMSODINE
STATED THAT ALL AFGHAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ABROAD HAVE BEEN IN-
STRUCTED TO NOTIFY FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS OF THE NEW REGIME. WE
ASSUME THAT AMBASSADOR KARIM WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT
CONCERNING THIS MATTER.

9. AT END OF ONE-HOUR MEETING, PROTOCOL CHIEF STATED THAT
OFFICIAL CONTACTS WILL SOON BEGIN AND WILL BE AT ALL LEVELS
ACCORDING TO RANK OF EMBASSY OFFICERS AND AFGHAN GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS. POLICY OF NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE EXPLAINED AT THAT
TIME TO ALL AMBASSADORS AND CHARGE D'AFFAIRES RESIDENT IN
KABUL.

10. FIRST FORMAL NOTE ANNOUNCING NEW GOVERNMENT WAS DELIVERED
TO EMBASSY AT 1825 HOURS, APRIL 30 (REFTEL B).
ELIOT

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Message Attributes

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